

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A support system for catalyst gauzes in an ammonia oxidation burner, comprising:

ceramic fillings arranged so as to support the catalyst gauzes, the ceramic fillings being contained in a burner basket having metal walls and a perforated bottom plate; and

a wave breaker arranged in the ceramic fillings so as to be completely covered by the ceramic fillings, the wave breaker being fixed to at least one of an outer periphery of the bottom plate and one of the metal walls.

26. (Currently Amended) A support system according to claim 25, wherein the wave breaker is filled with ~~the~~ at least one of ceramic fillings, Raschig rings, ceramic rings, ceramic catalyst materials and particulate ceramic material, so as to obtain a same flow resistance as the ceramic fillings in the burner basket.

27. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 25, wherein the wave breaker is a triangular shaped ridge.

28. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 27, wherein the ridge is made of segments.

29. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 28, wherein the segments of the ridge have end walls.

30. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 25, wherein the wave breaker is a smooth or perforated sheet arranged at an angle of 10-60° relative to an adjacent one of the walls.

31. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 30, wherein the angle is 25-35°.

32. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 31, wherein the sheet is made of segments.

33. (Currently Amended) A support system according to claim 32, wherein the segments of the ~~sheet~~ sheet have end walls.

34. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 30, wherein the sheet is made of segments.

35. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 34, wherein the segments of the sheet have end walls.

36. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 25, wherein the wave breaker is a honeycomb structure.

37. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 36, wherein the honeycomb structure has a sloping top.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 25, wherein the ceramic fillings include a ceramic catalyst.

40. (Previously Presented) A support system according to claim 25, wherein the catalyst gauzes include support screens.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing movement of ceramic material and avoiding tearing of catalyst gauzes in an ammonia oxidation burner, the method comprising:

supporting the catalyst gauzes with ceramic fillings contained in a burner basket having metal walls and a perforated bottom plate; and

arranging a wave breaker in the ceramic fillings so as to be completely covered by the ceramic fillings and fixing the wave breaker to at least one of an outer periphery of the bottom plate and one of the metal walls of the burner basket.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the wave breaker is one of a triangular shaped ridge, a smooth sheet, a perforated sheet and a honeycomb structure.

43. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the ceramic fillings include a ceramic catalyst.

44. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 41, wherein the catalyst gauzes include support screens.